(b) how much money is involved in these frauds; and

(c) what action has been taken to prevent occurrences of such frauds in future, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The information relating to number of frauds detected in public sector banks and amount involved during the years 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 is given below:—

Year	Number of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1990	1687	10593 + US$7500 + Uganda Shillings 1597789
1991	1559	6541
1992	1717	14449 + Fijian Dollars 1500
1993	2213	32032.43
1994	2266	20007.88 + Uganda Shillings 9844000
1995	1890	11551.12
1996	1954	31937.63

The Public Sector Banks, at the instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for prevention of frauds. The steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI advising the banks of modus-operandi in ingenious cases alongwith required safeguards to prevent their proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in frauds prone areas by the RBI.

Newsitem captioned FIs to Rescue 'Last Mile' Projects

*190. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "FIs to rescue 'last mile' project" published in Economic Times dated 25th June, 1997;

(b) the list of such projects, cost and time overrun, amount invested by FIs alongwith the names of Corporate Groups; and

(c) NPAs as on date, attributable to these Corporate Groups?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that all India financial institutions have evolved, over the years, a system of project monitoring to ensure that the project implementation is on agreed lines and schedules envisaged do not go awry resulting in time and cost overruns. However, generally no viable project is allowed to be abandoned or languished once taken up, since it is the objective of the institutions to see that the projects are completed, assets kept productive and funds already channalised are recovered. Problems/difficulties observed during implementation stage, which is usually the case in many mega projects, are diagnosed and appropriate measures such as revamping of projects with suitable changes in products, process, technology etc., strengthening of management, restructuring means of finance, financing genuine overrun in the project cost etc. are considered.

As regards the three projects mentioned in the news-item viz., Ispat Industries Ltd., Jindal Vijaynagar Steels

Ltd. and Essar Oil Ltd. these companies belong to Mittal Group, O.O. Jindal Group and Essar Group respectively. IDBI has reported that cost and time overrun in the projects of the above mentioned companies has been due to changes in the scope of the projects. As per information made available by IDBI no loan of IDBI, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) and Industrial Finance Corporation of Inida Ltd. (IFCI) to companies in these three groups has become non-performing asset (NPA).

In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Fnancial Insitutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Unsettled cases of income tax

*191. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the notice published in the Press on 26th December, 1996, containing a note of the Chief Income Tax Commissioner, Delhi vide DAVP-4016/15/96 regarding grievances of unsettled cases of Income Tax under 170 Ward/12(i) for the assessment years 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 received by the Income Tax Office, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and name-wise;

(c) action being taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) by which time these cases are likely to be settled and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi vide advertisement davp 4016/16/96 made an announcement of holding of an Open Forum meeting with the tax payers for redressal of their grievances in connection with refunds, appeal effects, rectifications etc. The Open Forum meeting was held on 17th Februrary, 1997. No specific note or advertisement in respect of ITO Ward 12(1) was issued by the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi.

(b) The details of the cases identified as per present jurisdiction of ITO Ward 12(1) for which petitions were received in response to the above referred advertisement are as under:—

S.No.	Name	Asstt. Year
1.	M/s. Pradeep Bhalla (HUF)	93-94
2.	Nutan Kumar Sanghi	91-92
3.	Smt. Kanta Devi	91-92
4.	Smt. Renu Gupta	92-93 & 94-95
5.	Nandita Jain	92-93
6.	M/. D.P. Sona	87-88
7.	S.L. Mehra	91-92
8.	Vishnu Puri	90-91
9.	S.S. Bery (HUF)	88-89 & 94-95
10.	B.R. Sharma	88-89 & 94-95
11.	M.L. Arora	90-91
12.	Pradeep Jhalani	94-95
13.	Anupam Kumar Govil	94-95
14.	Arun Jain	91-92, 92-93, 94-95 & 95-96
15.	Gardeners Corp.	92-93
16.	Ved Bati Sharma	92-93
17.	Vinod Ahuja	94-95
18.	S.N. Narang	93-94

(c) Out of 18 cases identified as pertaining to Ward 12 (1), 7 cases have already been settled. The remaining are pending settlement as more information is required for which letters have already been sent to the assesees.

(d) All the cases are likely to be settled by 31st October, 97.

Local Area Banks in Private Sector

*192. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to